

Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton since February, 2000. The mission comprises four Mini-Missions. Mini Missions-I and II are being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, with respective objectives of 'Research', 'Dissemination of technology to farmers'. Mini Missions-III and IV are being implemented by the Ministry of Textiles with respective objectives of 'Development of marketing infrastructure' and 'Modernisation of ginning and pressing factories'. Under Mini Mission-III, development of 51 market yards have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 73.21 crore and under Mini Mission-IV, modernization of 139 ginning and pressing factories have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 158.79 crore.

(c) and (d) Government proposes to set up a Jute Technology Mission under National Textile Policy, 2000. The Mission is proposed to be launched during the current financial year. A provision of Rs. 5 crore has been made in the budget allocation for 2001-02 under Special Jute Development Fund which takes into account the allocation for the proposed Jute Technology Mission.

The National Textile Policy, 2000 does not specifically ask for a Technology Mission on Wool. However, the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce in their 43rd Report have recommended for launching of a Wool Technology Mission. The Working Group on Textiles and Jute Industry for the Tenth Five Year Plan have also recommended for the same.

#### **Export Growth during the Current Fiscal Years**

1194. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the textile sector has achieved an export growth during the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, the achievement during the first six months; and

(c) what target has been fixed for the full year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) During the period April-August 2001, textile exports amounted to

US \$ 4353.8 million as against the exports of US\$ 5263.5 million during the same period of 2000, recording a negative growth of 17.3%.

(c) In view of the current international trade environment, the textile exports during 2001-2002 are targeted to reach a level of US\$ 12,100 million.

#### Plight of cotton growers

1195. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the plight of cotton growers in various parts of the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, as a result of increased domestic production and at the same time massive imports of cotton;

(b) whether affected States have brought the plight of farmers to the notice of the Government and as a result of which Government would restrict imports of cotton with immediate effect;

(c) if not, the quantum of loss that cotton growers and procurement agencies would suffer; and

(d) the corrective measures being taken and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Production, consumption and import of cotton during the 1999-2000 and 2000-01 cotton seasons are as under:—

(in lakh bales of 170 kg. each)

	1999-2000	2000-2001
Production	156.00	140.00
Import	22.01	16.00
Consumption	173.36	165.00

(b) Expecting a good crop, requests were received from State Governments to increase duty on import of cotton. The